GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3888
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2000
MEETING ON AIDS
GOWDAR MALLIKARJUNAPPA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have convened a meeting of the representatives of trade and industry to involve them in the Government campaign against AIDS during November, 2000;

(b) if so, the extent to which the representatives of trade and industry have offered help in meeting the challenge of aids;

(c) whether the Union Government have also discussed the issue with the World Bank President during his meeting with the Prime Minister;

(d) if so, the extent to which World Bank President has assured to provide assistance to help India in meeting the AIDS programme;

(e) whether any concrete programme has been chalked out in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) Yes, Sir. A meting was held by the Hon`ble Prime Minister on December 1, 2000 with Business Leaders regarding HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control.

(b) There has been a positive response from the business leaders who have agreed to utilize their budgets for advertising to spread awareness by including messages on AIDS prevention in their advertisements.The business leaders have also offered to undertake programmes for awareness and health services for their workers and the local communities in which their industrial units are located. They have also agreed to adopt a policy of non-discrimination against those already infected with the virus and care and support for families of victims of AIDS.

(c) The Prime Minister also met the President of the World Bank during his visit to India in November, 2000 and discussed the National AIDS Control Programme.

(d) The World Bank is providing assistance of US$ 229.8 million for the National AIDS Control Programme Phase-II for a five year period from 1999-2004.

(e) The Hon`ble Prime Minister has proposed that a Government - Business Partnership be set up on the pattern of similar Partnerships estabished in countries such as Thailand and Malaysia. The Prime Minister has proposed that the Partnership should cut across various industry associations and business groups and have representation from all large, medium and small industries. He has suggested that the Partnership should be established within a month.

(f) The following agenda has been suggested for the proposed Partnership:

. Networking among business for advocacy and partnership;
. Making use of corporate advertising to create awareness;
. Funding comprehensive health services for employees and families;
. Ensuring easy access to condoms among employees and local community members;
. Eliminating HIV screening as part of pre-employment physical examination;
. Ensuring confidentiality and non-discrimination in the workplace;
. Introducing workplace intervention; and,
. Extending the intervention to local communities;
. Joining the national campaign against drug abuse.

In addition, business and industry would also extend support to activities for income generation for families of employees affected by AIDS.